

and rump ruddy brown; wing—all primaries excepting the first, and all secondaries, blackish-brown at the base, crossed by a band of buff, in secondaries followed by a deep band of blackish-brown; tips of primaries and secondaries brown; throat whitish, and some of the feathers marked with black; chest grey; breast and abdomen pale rufous, with a dull white stripe down the centre of each feather, lined on each side by a narrow brown line; flanks rufous; tail greyish-brown, all the feathers excepting the first two crossed by a deep black band; under tail coverts rufous, shaft of each feather and tip white, a series of small double spots of a dark brown colour situated close to the centre shaft of the feathers and at even distances along it. The coloration of the sexes is alike, with the exception of the female showing a faint rufous marking on the feathers of the lower throat. Iris brown; feet slaty-grey; bill brown.

Measurements, taken in the flesh, in inches:—Total length,  $6\frac{1}{2}$ ; total stretch of wings, tip to tip,  $11\frac{1}{4}$ ; tarsus,  $\frac{7}{8}$ ; bill,  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Type*.—A male collected at Innamincka on 2nd October, 1916, by S. A. White, and now in the South Australian Museum.

*Range*.—As far as yet known, the bird is confined to Cooper's Creek district, from above Innamincka in the east to Cuttapirrie Corner in the west.

The markings on the lower side of *Climacteris waitiei* partake somewhat of those of *C. scandens*, while the coloration of the back approaches that of *C. superciliosa*, but differs noticeably from both. Although of about the same size as *C. superciliosa*, this new bird has a shorter and stouter bill, its feet and legs much more powerful, and the claws longer and stronger.

Habits much like those of other members of the genus. The call resembles that of *C. scandens*, but is not so loud. I secured the first specimen in the vicinity of "Burke's Tree," a few miles above Innamincka, on the south side of Cooper's Creek.

Fully fledged young ones were accompanying the parent birds as they flew from tree to tree, their advanced plumage suggesting that these birds had nested in June or July.

---

## Description of the Winiam Tit-Warbler, *Acanthiza winiamida*, sp. nov.

BY F. ERASMUS WILSON, R.A.O.U., MELBOURNE.

THE whole of the upper surface, with the exception of the lower forehead and rump, uniformly grey, slightly tinged with olive-green. Feathers of the lower forehead black, widely barred with white near the extremity; rump creamy-white. Primaries and secondaries ashy-brown, the primaries being faintly margined with white in their external webs. Tail feathers black, partially tipped with white. Feathers of ear coverts and throat whitish, faintly

margined with black. The dark throat feathers terminate abruptly in a pale pectoral band, thus giving the appearance of a distinct gular patch. Breast, abdomen, and flanks greenish-white. Legs and bill black. Irides creamy-coloured.

This description refers to an adult female.

*Measurements*.—Total length, 3.75 inches; tail, 1.5 inches; tarsi, 0.63 inch; culmen, 0.25 inch.

The above bird was collected by me on the 12th October, 1916, in a desert south of Winiam East, a district lying about 12 miles south-east of Nhill, Victoria. Its nearest relation is the Small-billed Tit-Warbler (*Acanthiza morgani*), Mathews, but from which, apart from other minor differences, it may be easily distinguished by the dark gular patch above mentioned. The birds are extremely shy, and when disturbed usually fly fully two hundred yards before alighting; I thus found it very difficult to secure specimens.

The type specimen was obtained when in company with its mate and two immature birds, one of which was also secured. I saw many of them on the desert, and, with the one exception mentioned, there were always three birds in company. A partially constructed nest was found, situated about 4 inches from the ground in a dwarfed *Banksia*. The materials utilized in building the outer portion of the nest were dried desert grass, an occasional spider cocoon, and quantities of the epidermis from the back of *Banksia* leaves. Whether this epidermis separates from the leaf when dead, or is raised by the attacks of insects, I am unable to say. The quantity used, however, is remarkable, and it would be interesting to know whether *Acanthiza morgani* likewise uses such material.

According to Mr. Mathews's system of nomenclature, this bird would be known as *Acanthiza iredalei winiamida*. I propose the vernacular name of Winiam Tit-Warbler for the new bird.

Type in collection of F. Erasmus Wilson, Melbourne.

## The *Acanthizæ* or Tit-Warblers.

By F. E. HOWE, C.M.Z.S., R.A.O.U., CANTERBURY (VIC.)

(Read before the Bird Observers' Club, 21st June, 1916.)

THE genera *Acanthiza* and *Geobasileus* form one of the most interesting groups of the family *Sylviidæ*. The following notes regarding the distribution of these birds in Australia refer more particularly to the species inhabiting Victoria and Tasmania.

This group of birds has puzzled ornithologists since they were listed by Gould. Most authors have used the genera *Acanthiza* and *Geobasileus*. Gould admitted *Acanthiza* (Vig. and Hors., *Trans. Linn. Soc. London*, vol. xv., page 224, 1827) and *Geobasileus* (Quoy and Gaimard, "Voy. de l'*Astrolabe*, 1830). North ("Nests